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THE HEDGEHOG
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG | 280
PEPPERS & BOSKIN
HUNZEKER

Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures—a world unique & beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Sonic and his friends work to save the world from the forces of evil!

CHARACTER SELECT

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
COOL BLUE HERO!

MILES "TAILS" PROWER
SONIC'S BEST BUDDY

CHIP
AMNESIA-STRICKEN SPIRIT

AXEL THE WATER BUFFALO
HIGH-OCTANE EGG BOSS!

???

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

PREVIOUSLY...

FAMILY GAIA!

Chip is the **Light Gaia**—the spirit meant to restore the shattered world! Or that's what everyone tells him. The poor little guy has had a difficult time remembering who he is and exactly what kind of power he holds!

But that hasn't stopped him from joining Sonic and his band of Freedom Fighters as they travel the fractured globe seeking out the Gaia Temples needed to fix their broken planet! One such temple resides in Mazuri, a beautiful town full of exotic wonders.

Unfortunatley for Sonic and Chip, one of Eggman's cronies is also stationed here, and he's packing some serious fire power...

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Keys to Victory

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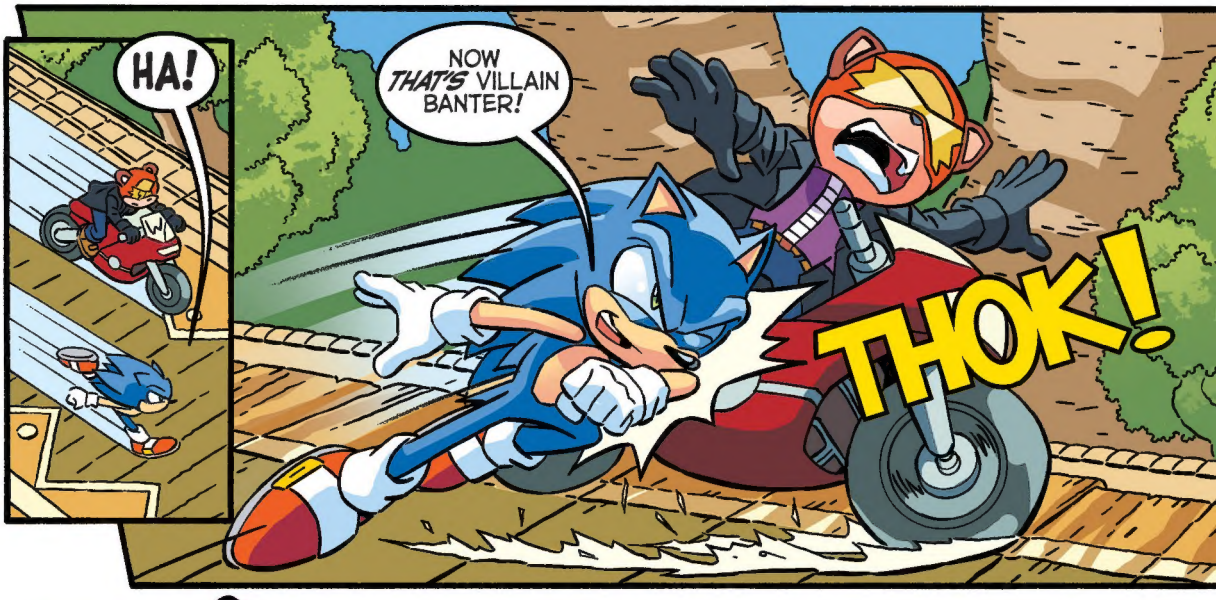
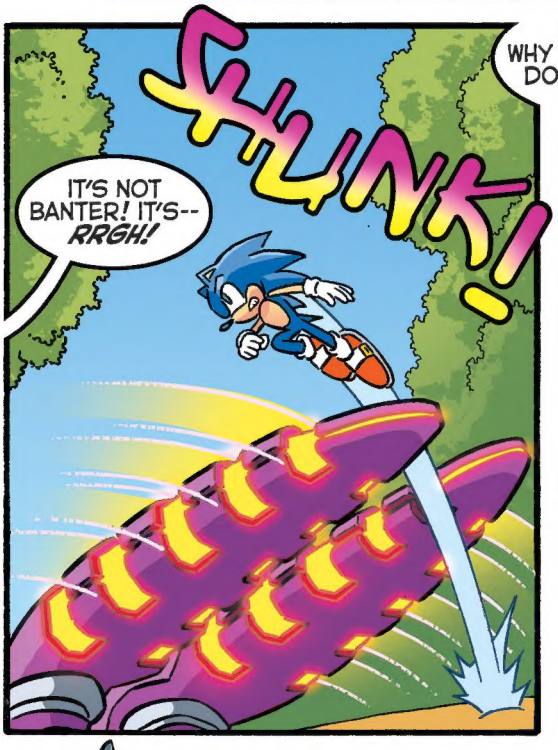
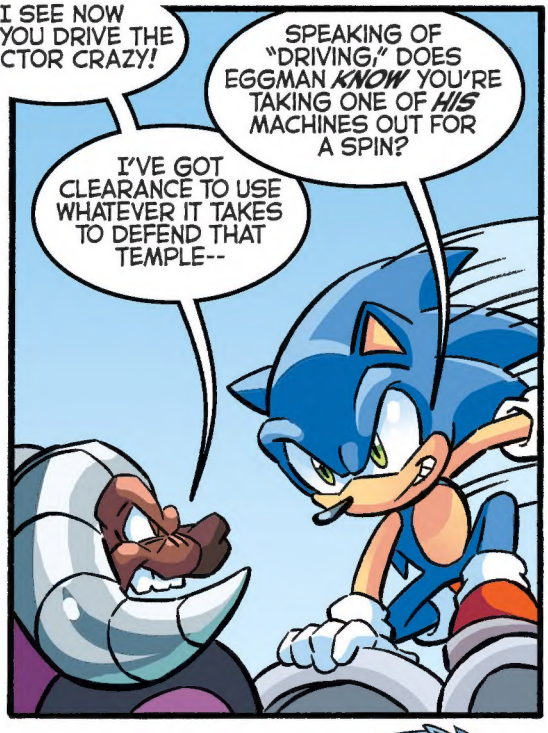
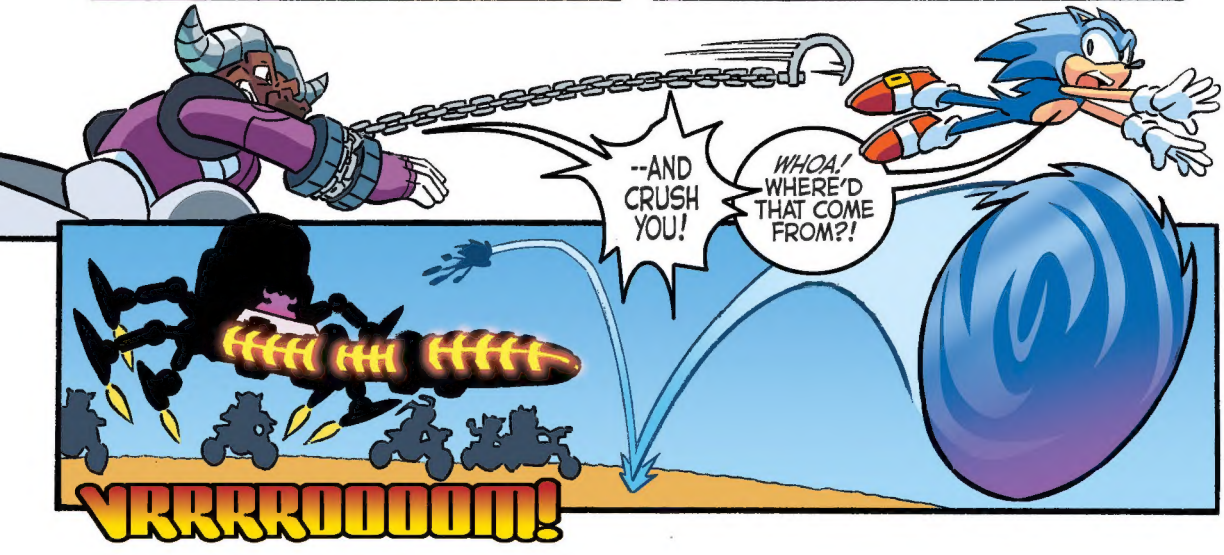
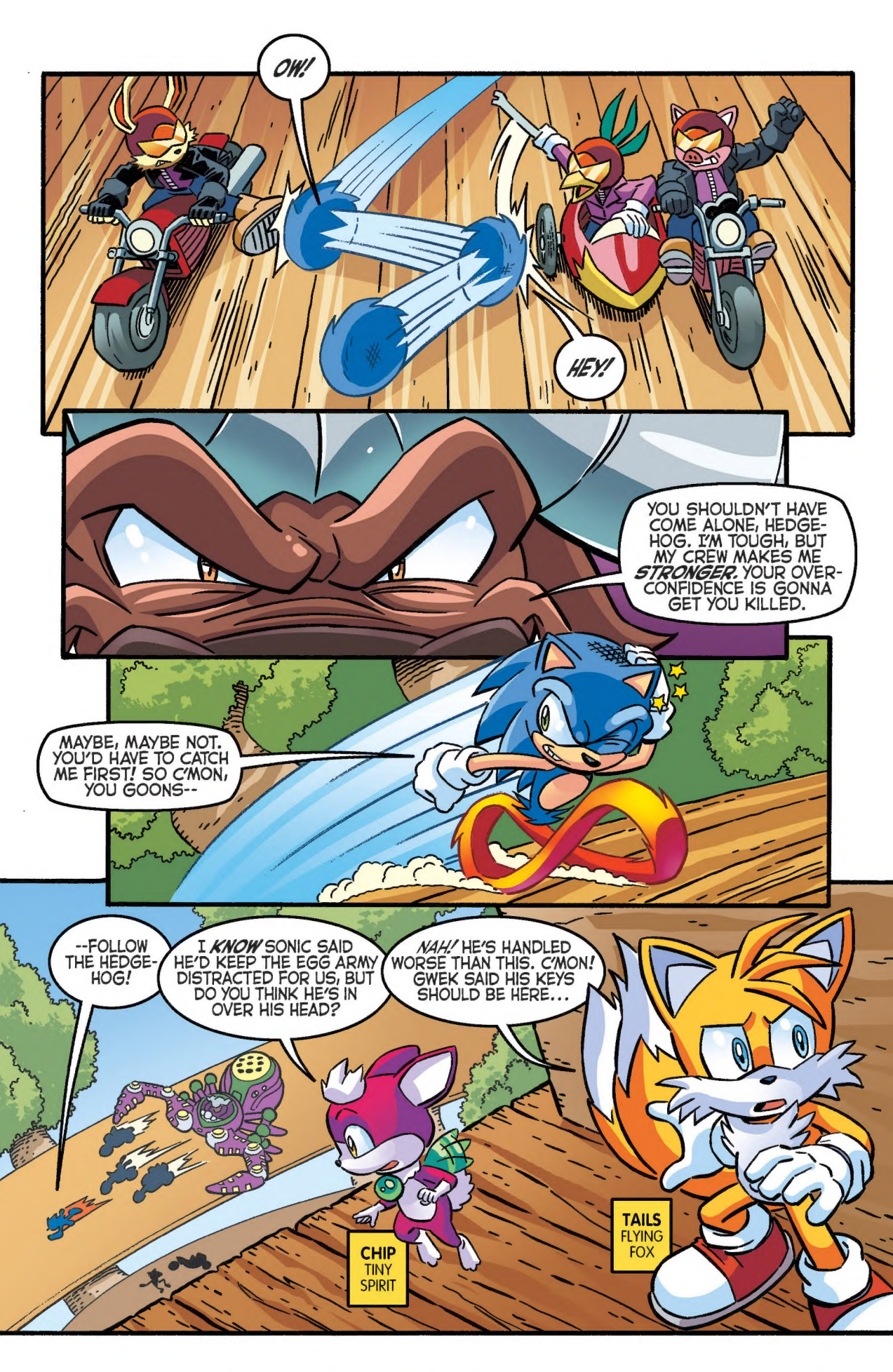
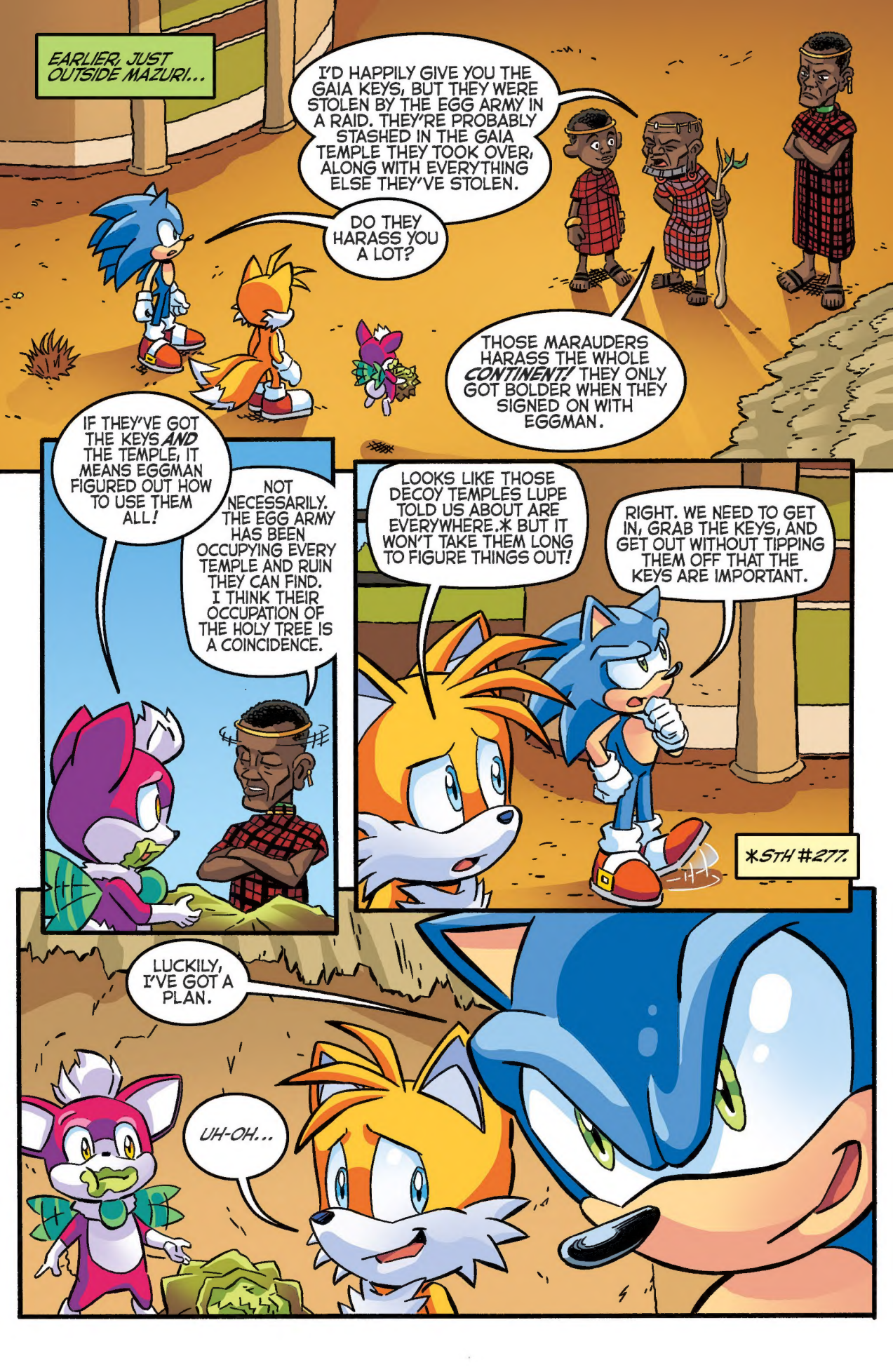

HA!
NOW THAT'S VILLAIN BANTER!
THOK!

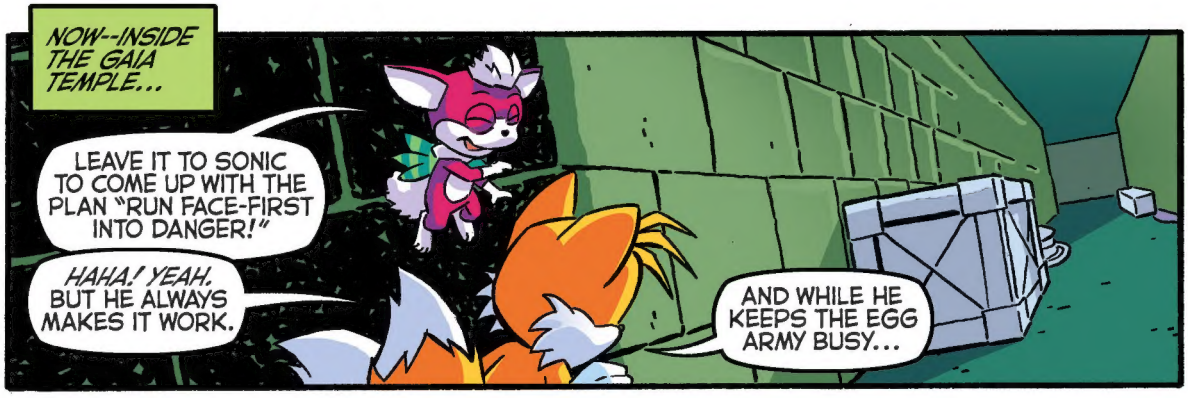

IT'S NOT BANTER! IT'S-- RRGH!
SHUNK!


I SEE NOW WHY YOU DRIVE THE DOCTOR CRAZY!
SPEAKING OF "DRIVING," DOES EGGMAN KNOW YOU'RE TAKING ONE OF HIS MACHINES OUT FOR A SPIN?
I'VE GOT CLEARANCE TO USE WHATEVER IT TAKES TO DEFEND THAT TEMPLE--

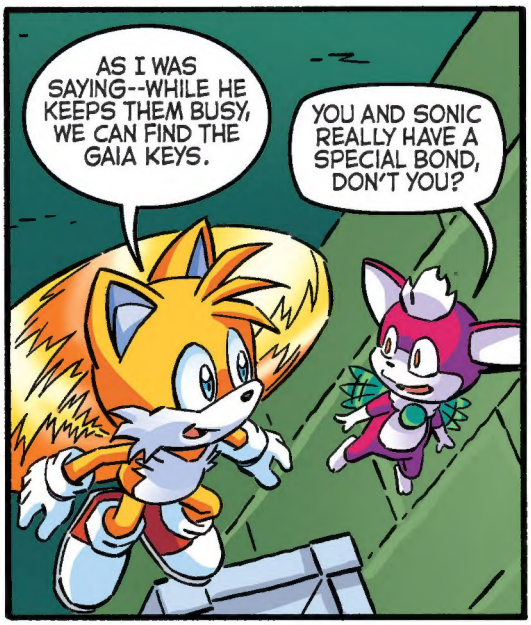

--AND CRUSH YOU!
WHOA! WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?!
VRRRRDDDDM!


OW!
HEY!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME ALONE, HEDGEHOG. I'M TOUGH, BUT MY CREW MAKES ME STRONGER. YOUR OVERCONFIDENCE IS GONNA GET YOU KILLED.
MAYBE, MAYBE NOT. YOU'D HAVE TO CATCH ME FIRST! SO C'MON, YOU GOONS--
--FOLLOW THE HEDGEHOG!
I KNOW SONIC SAID HE'D KEEP THE EGG ARMY DISTRACTED FOR US, BUT DO YOU THINK HE'S IN OVER HIS HEAD?
NAH! HE'S HANDLED WORSE THAN THIS. C'MON! GWEK SAID HIS KEYS SHOULD BE HERE...
CHIP TINY SPIRIT
TAILS FLYING FOX


EARLIER, JUST OUTSIDE MAZURI...
I'D HAPPILY GIVE YOU THE GAIA KEYS, BUT THEY WERE STOLEN BY THE EGG ARMY IN A RAID. THEY'RE PROBABLY STASHED IN THE GAIA TEMPLE THEY TOOK OVER, ALONG WITH EVERYTHING ELSE THEY'VE STOLEN.
DO THEY HARASS YOU A LOT?
THOSE MARAUDERS HARASS THE WHOLE CONTINENT! THEY ONLY GOT BOLDER WHEN THEY SIGNED ON WITH EGGMAN.
IF THEY'VE GOT THE KEYS AND THE TEMPLE, IT MEANS EGGMAN FIGURED OUT HOW TO USE THEM ALL!
NOT NECESSARILY. THE EGG ARMY HAS BEEN OCCUPYING EVERY TEMPLE AND RUIN THEY CAN FIND. I THINK THEIR OCCUPATION OF THE HOLY TREE IS A COINCIDENCE.
LOOKS LIKE THOSE DECOY TEMPLES LUPE TOLD US ABOUT ARE EVERYWHERE.* BUT IT WON'T TAKE THEM LONG TO FIGURE THINGS OUT!
RIGHT. WE NEED TO GET IN, GRAB THE KEYS, AND GET OUT WITHOUT TIPPING THEM OFF THAT THE KEYS ARE IMPORTANT.
*STH #277.
LUCKILY, I'VE GOT A PLAN.
UH-OH...


NOW--INSIDE THE GAIA TEMPLE...
LEAVE IT TO SONIC TO COME UP WITH THE PLAN "RUN FACE-FIRST INTO DANGER!"
HAHA! YEAH, BUT HE ALWAYS MAKES IT WORK.
AND WHILE HE KEEPS THE EGG ARMY BUSY...

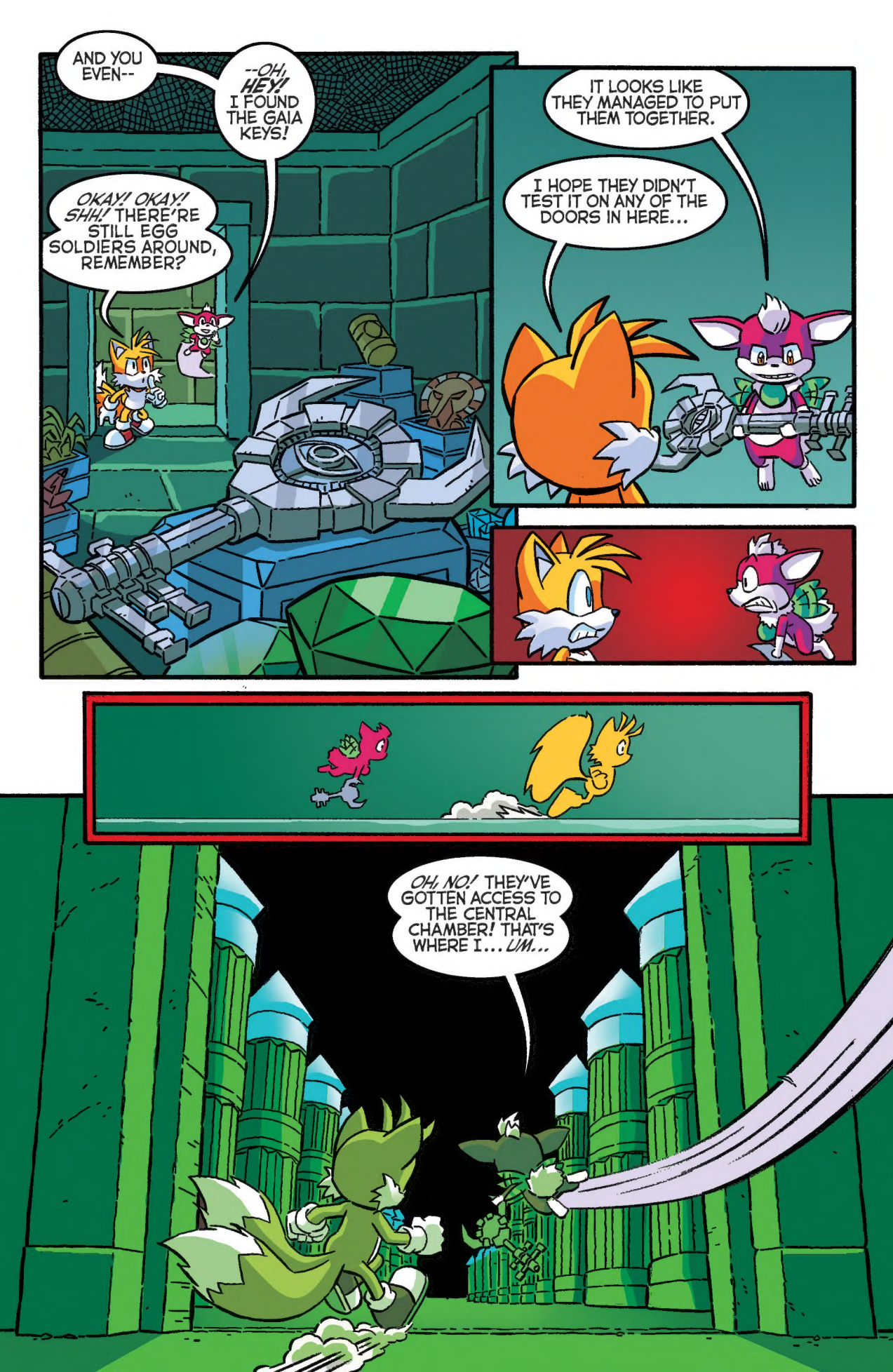
GET TO THE GARAGE! AXEL SAYS HE NEEDS MORE WHEELS ON THE ROAD!
MORE?! HOW MANY OF US DID SONIC TAKE DOWN ALREADY?!

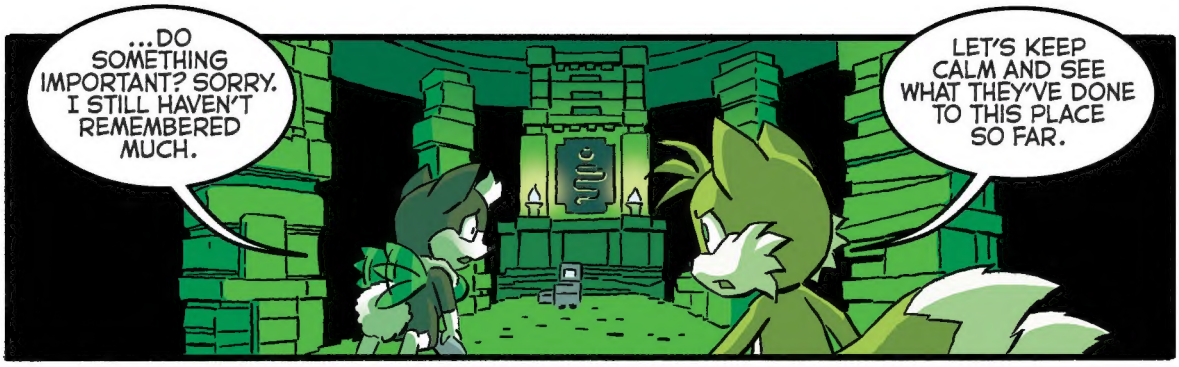

AS I WAS SAYING--WHILE HE KEEPS THEM BUSY, WE CAN FIND THE GAIA KEYS.
YOU AND SONIC REALLY HAVE A SPECIAL BOND, DON'T YOU?

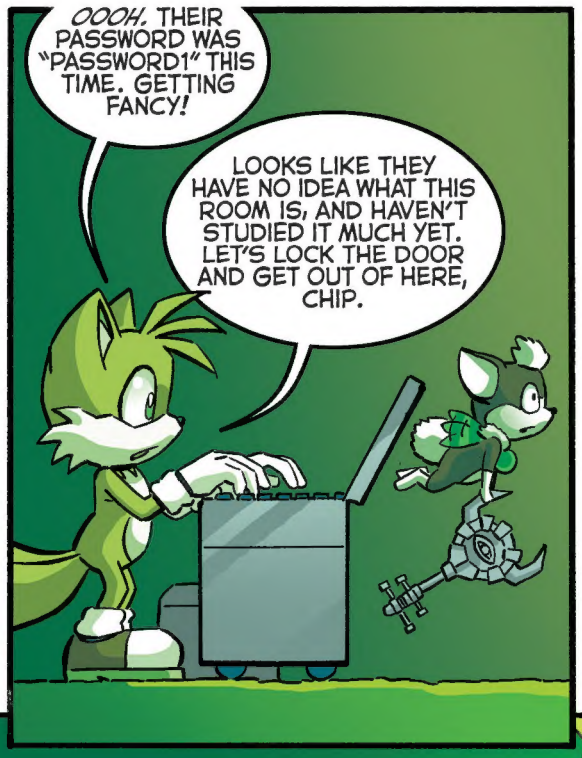
YEAH, HE'S LIKE A BIG BROTHER TO ME. HE INSPIRED ME IN SO MANY WAYS. TO BE MYSELF. TO BE A HERO. I WOUDN'T BE WHO I AM TODAY IF NOT FOR HIM.

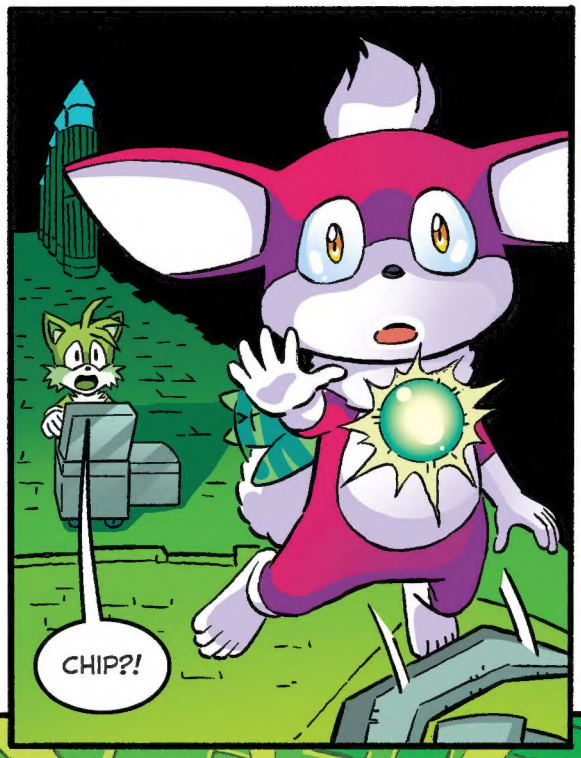
I'LL ADMIT IT-- I'M JEALOUS! I WISH I HAD A LIFELONG FRIEND LIKE THAT!
HAHA! WELL, THAT'S THE THING ABOUT SONIC. HE TREATS US ALL LIKE WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN THE MOST IMPORTANT PEOPLE IN HIS LIFE.

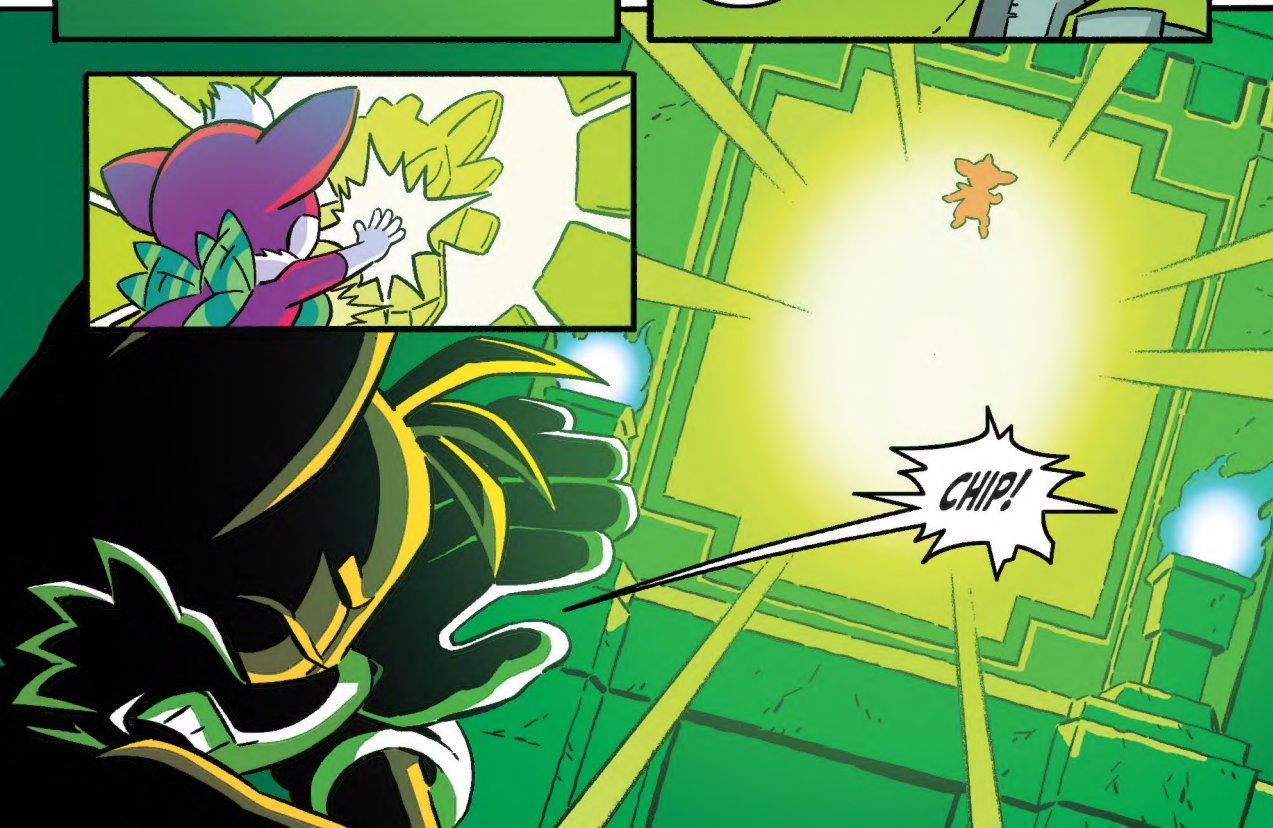
IT'S NOT JUST HIM. YOU AND ALL THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS HAVE MADE ME FEEL WELCOME. I'M NOT JUST A LEGENDARY SPIRIT TO YOU. I'M YOUR *FRIEND.*

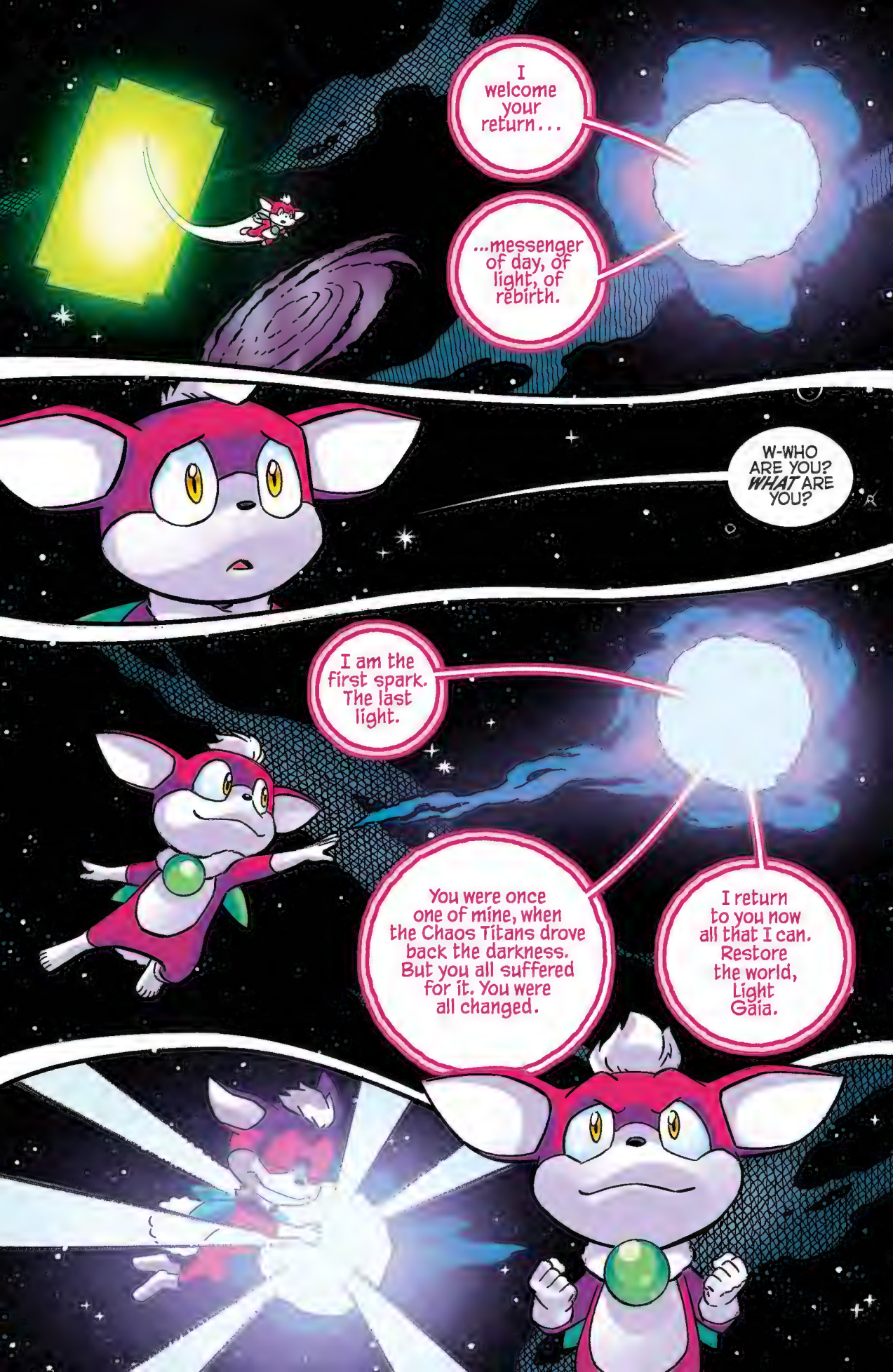

AND YOU EVEN--
--OH, HEY! I FOUND THE GAIA KEYS!
OKAY! OKAY! SHH! THERE'RE STILL EGG SOLDIERS AROUND, REMEMBER?
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY MANAGED TO PUT THEM TOGETHER.
I HOPE THEY DIDN'T TEST IT ON ANY OF THE DOORS IN HERE...
OH, NO! THEY'VE GOTTEN ACCESS TO THE CENTRAL CHAMBER! THAT'S WHERE I... UM...

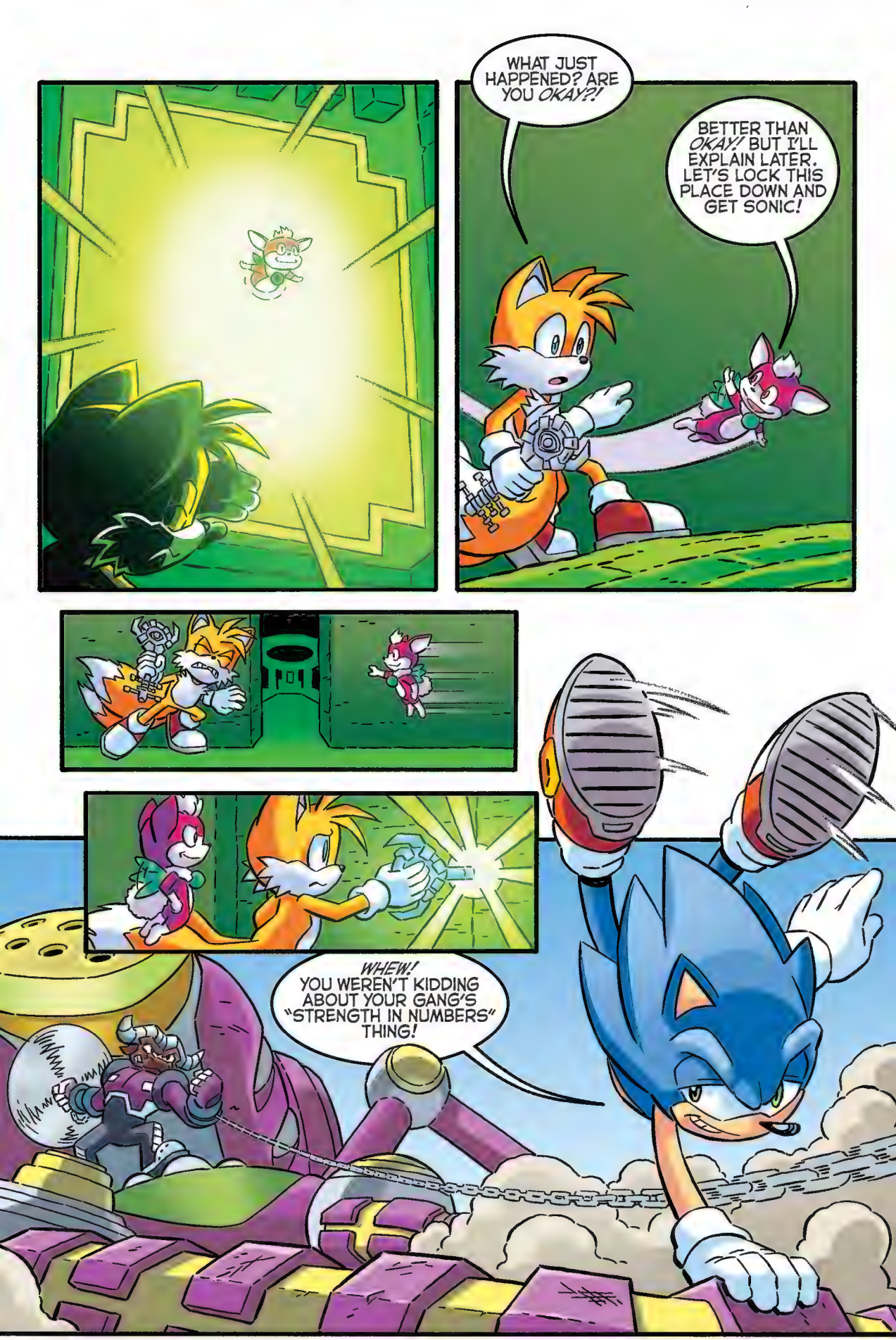

...DO SOMETHING IMPORTANT? SORRY. I STILL HAVEN'T REMEMBERED MUCH.
LET'S KEEP CALM AND SEE WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO THIS PLACE SO FAR.


OOOH. THEIR PASSWORD WAS "PASSWORD1" THIS TIME. GETTING FANCY!
LOOKS LIKE THEY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THIS ROOM IS, AND HAVEN'T STUDIED IT MUCH YET. LET'S LOCK THE DOOR AND GET OUT OF HERE, CHIP.

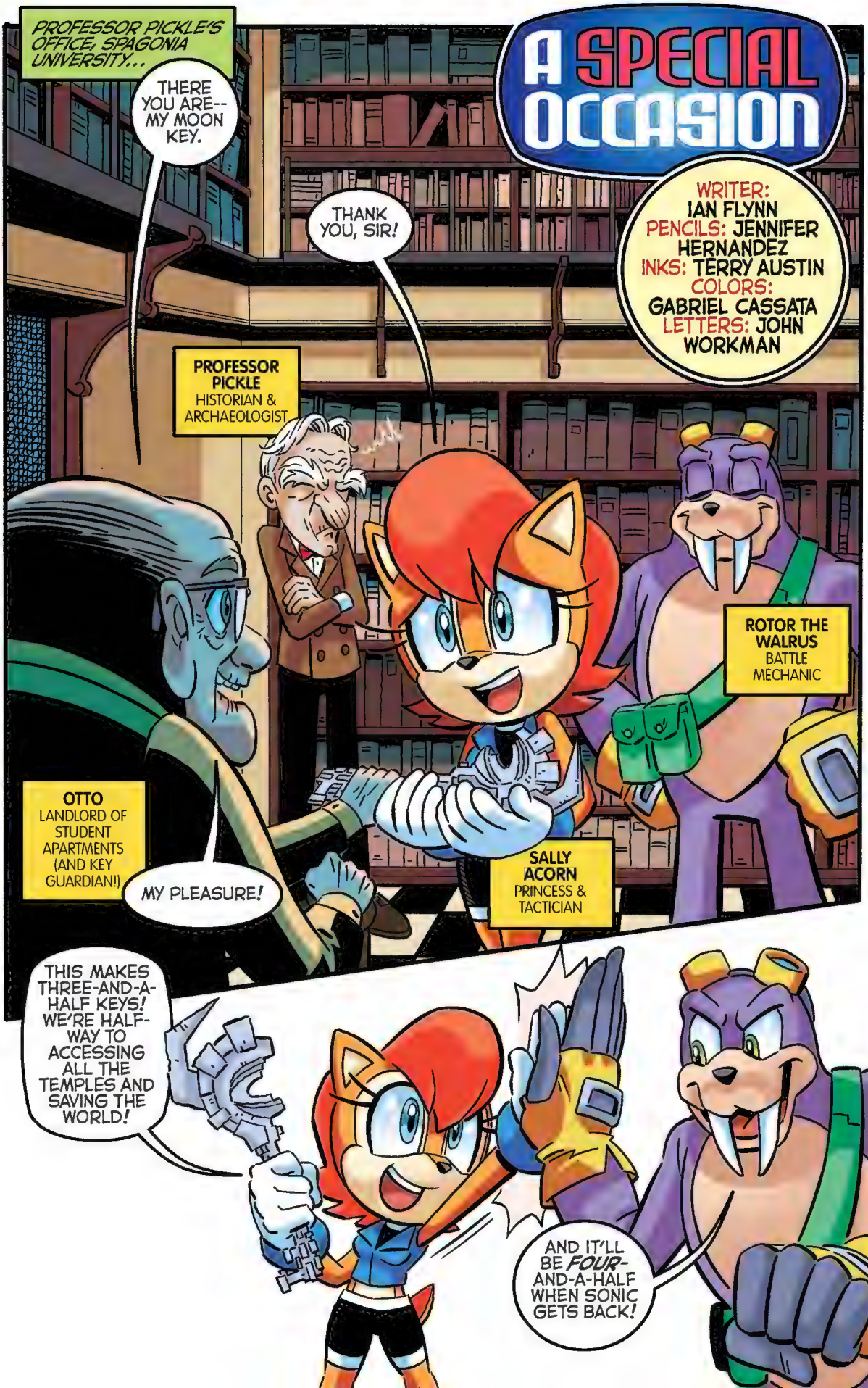

CHIP?!

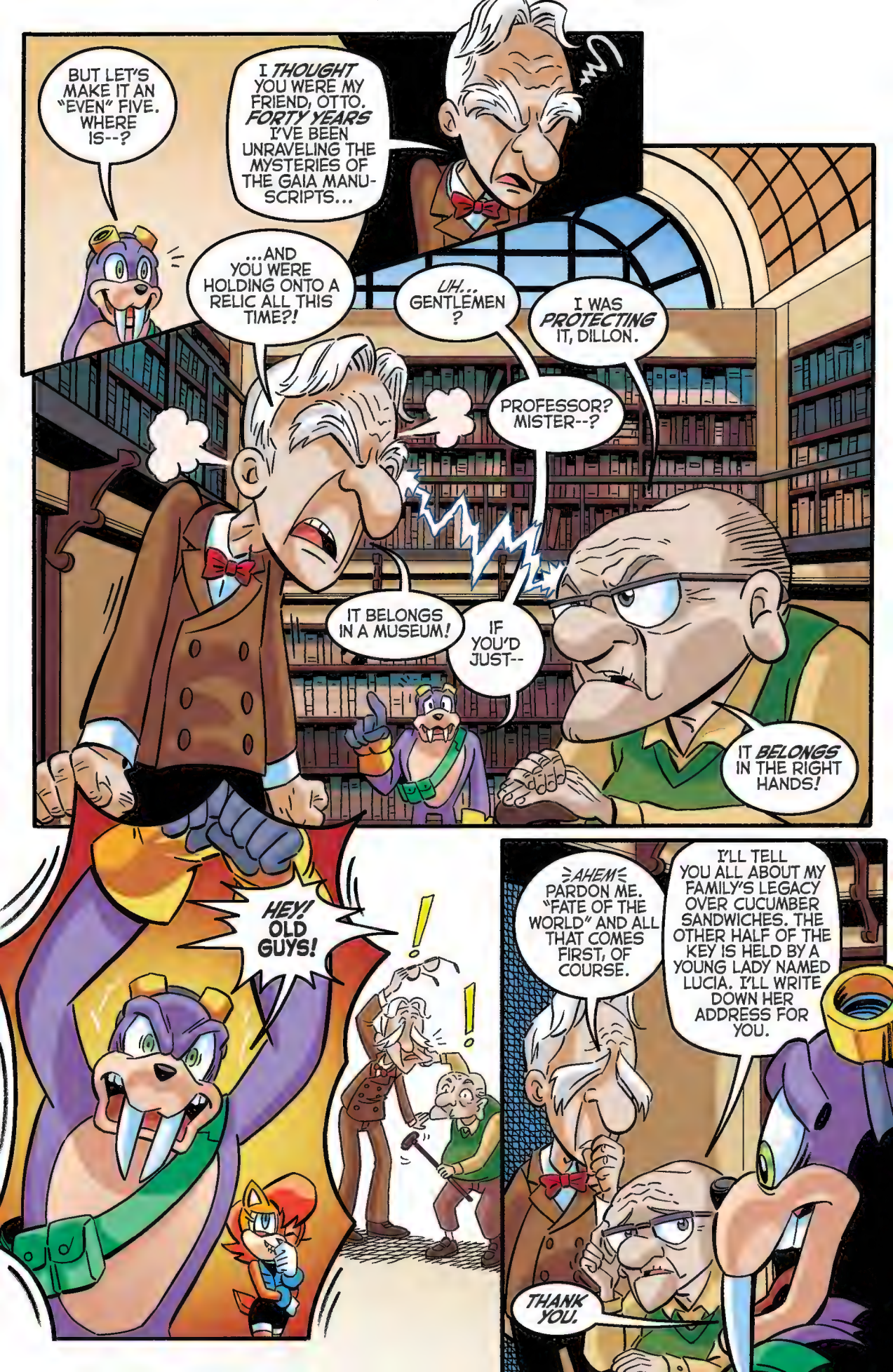

CHIP!


I welcome your return...
...messenger of day, of light, of rebirth.
W-WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU?
I am the first spark. The last light.
You were once one of mine, when the Chaos Titans drove back the darkness. But you all suffered for it. You were all changed.
I return to you now all that I can. Restore the world, Light Gaia.

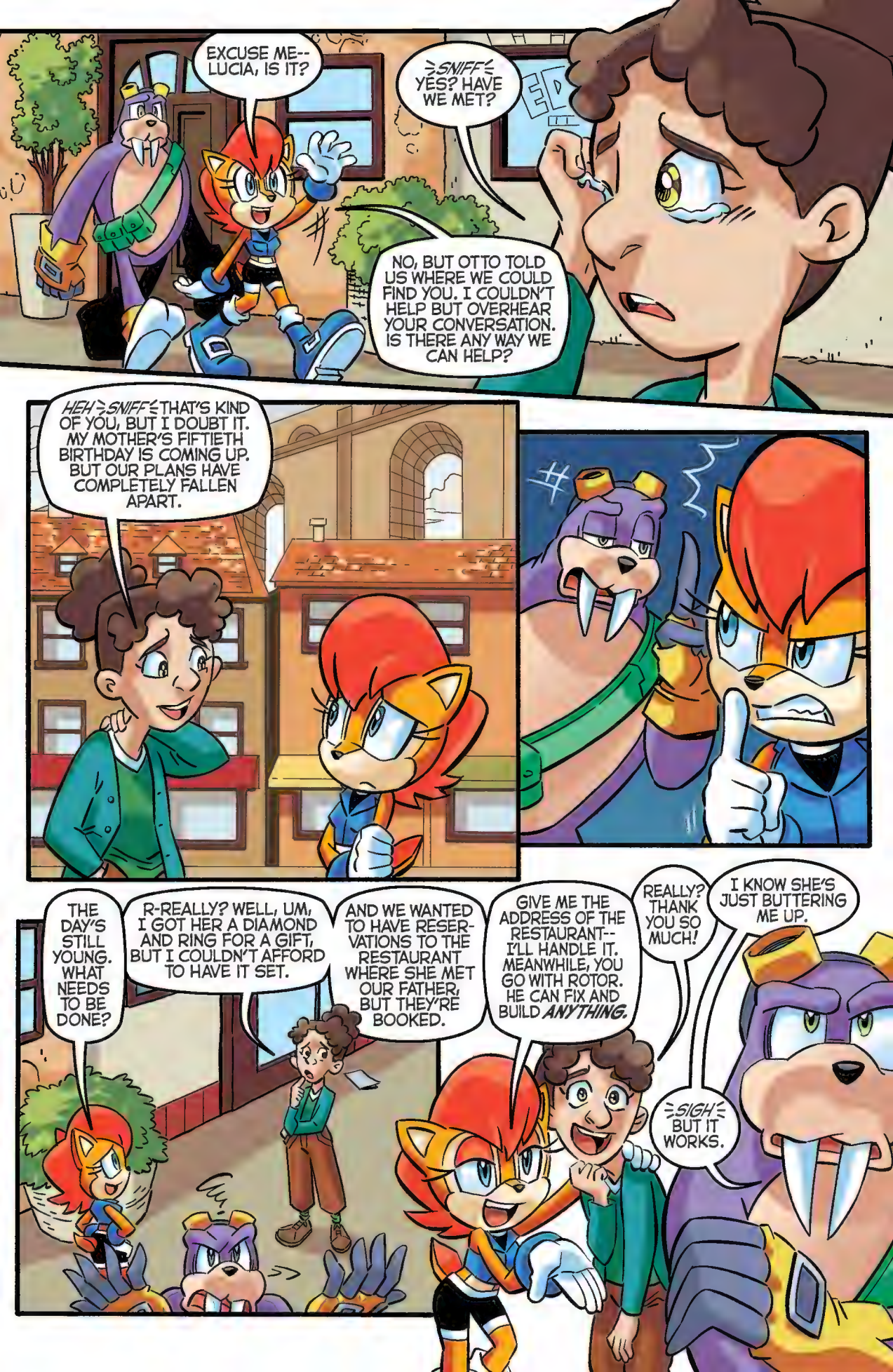

WHAT JUST HAPPENED? ARE YOU *OKAY?!*
BETTER THAN *OKAY!* BUT I'LL EXPLAIN LATER. LET'S LOCK THIS PLACE DOWN AND GET SONIC!
WHEW! YOU WEREN'T KIDDING ABOUT YOUR GANG'S "STRENGTH IN NUMBERS" THING!

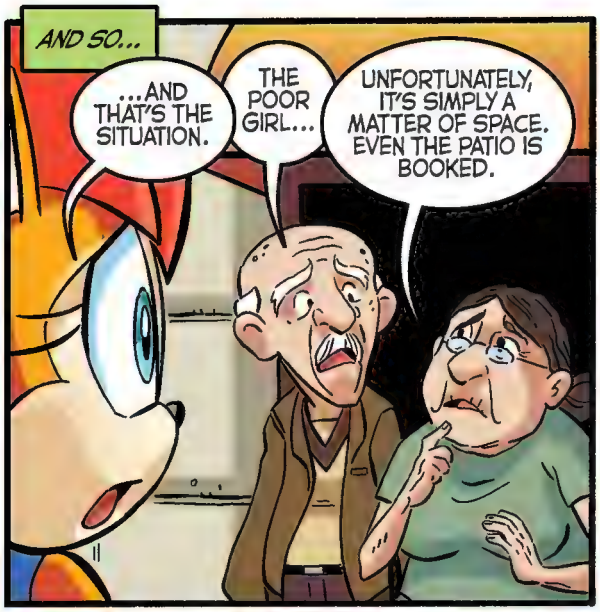
IN FACT--I'M GONNA QUIT WHILE I'M AHEAD.
YOU'RE... RETREATING ?!
YUP! TOODLES!
BREAK OUT THE GOOD STUFF, BROTHERS AND SISTERS! WE JUST DID THE IMPOSSIBLE!
WE DROVE OFF SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!
"IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE!"
THAT'S ONE MORE GAIA KEY FOR SONIC, AND ONE STEP CLOSER TO SAVING THE WORLD! THE ADVENTURES CONTINUE IN THIS ISSUE, IN THE PAGES OF SONIC UNIVERSE AND THROUGHOUT THE GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY!


A SPECIAL OCCASION
WRITER: IAN FLYNN
PENCILS: JENNIFER HERNANDEZ
INKS: TERRY AUSTIN
COLORS: GABRIEL CASSATA
LETTERS: JOHN WORKMAN
PROFESSOR PICKLE'S OFFICE, SPAGONIA UNIVERSITY...
THERE YOU ARE-- MY MOON KEY.
THANK YOU, SIR!
PROFESSOR PICKLE HISTORIAN & ARCHAEOLOGIST
ROTOR THE WALRUS BATTLE MECHANIC
OTTO LANDLORD OF STUDENT APARTMENTS (AND KEY GUARDIAN!)
MY PLEASURE!
SALLY ACORN PRINCESS & TACTICIAN
THIS MAKES THREE-AND-A-HALF KEYS! WE'RE HALF-WAY TO ACCESSING ALL THE TEMPLES AND SAVING THE WORLD!
AND IT'LL BE FOUR-AND-A-HALF WHEN SONIC GETS BACK!


BUT LET'S MAKE IT AN "EVEN" FIVE. WHERE IS--?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE MY FRIEND, OTTO. FORTY YEARS I'VE BEEN UNRAVELING THE MYSTERIES OF THE GAIA MANUSCRIPTS...
...AND YOU WERE HOLDING ONTO A RELIC ALL THIS TIME?!
UH... GENTLEMEN ?
I WAS PROTECTING IT, DILLON.
PROFESSOR? MISTER--?
IT BELONGS IN A MUSEUM!
IF YOU'D JUST--
IT BELONGS IN THE RIGHT HANDS!
HEY! OLD GUYS!
!
!
AHEM PARDON ME. "FATE OF THE WORLD" AND ALL THAT COMES FIRST, OF COURSE.
I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT MY FAMILY'S LEGACY OVER CUCUMBER SANDWICHES. THE OTHER HALF OF THE KEY IS HELD BY A YOUNG LADY NAMED LUCIA. I'LL WRITE DOWN HER ADDRESS FOR YOU.
THANK YOU.

SOON...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO GRUMPY. WE'RE MAKING EXCELLENT PROGRESS.
I KNOW, I KNOW. I'M SORRY. IT'S JUST...
NAILS
...EVERYONE IS BARELY COPING WITH THE WORLD BEING SPLIT APART. IT DRIVES ME CRAZY THAT PEOPLE ARE STILL PUTTING THEIR PERSONAL ISSUES ABOVE THE GREATER GOOD.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN WE DON'T HAVE RESERVATIONS?! YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BOOK IT WEEKS AGO, ELIO!
MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY IS TONIGHT!
SIGH NO, I HAVEN'T GOT THE RING READY. I'M SORRY, I JUST...DIDN'T HAVE THE MONEY LIKE I THOUGHT I WOULD. THIS IS A DISASTER!
I BELIEVE THAT'S OUR NEXT KEY GUARDIAN.

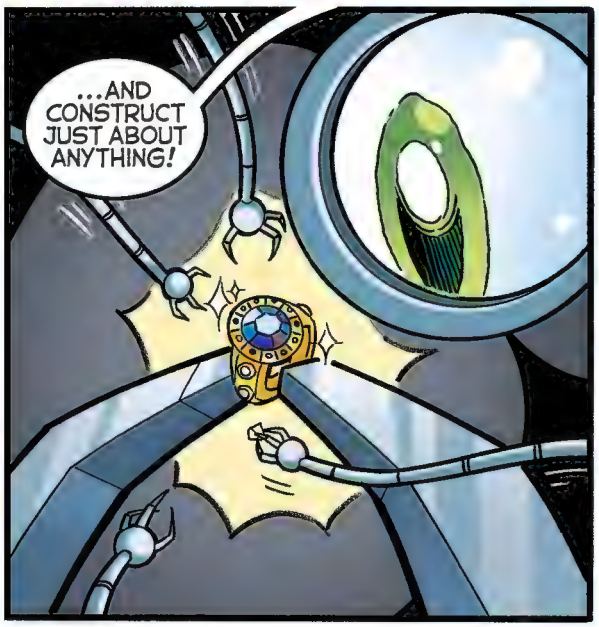

EXCUSE ME--LUCIA, IS IT?
≥SNIFF≤ YES? HAVE WE MET?
NO, BUT OTTO TOLD US WHERE WE COULD FIND YOU. I COULDN'T HELP BUT OVERHEAR YOUR CONVERSATION. IS THERE ANY WAY WE CAN HELP?
HEH ≥SNIFF≤ THAT'S KIND OF YOU, BUT I DOUBT IT. MY MOTHER'S FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY IS COMING UP. BUT OUR PLANS HAVE COMPLETELY FALLEN APART.
THE DAY'S STILL YOUNG. WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?
R-REALLY? WELL, UM, I GOT HER A DIAMOND AND RING FOR A GIFT, BUT I COULDN'T AFFORD TO HAVE IT SET.
AND WE WANTED TO HAVE RESERVATIONS TO THE RESTAURANT WHERE SHE MET OUR FATHER, BUT THEY'RE BOOKED.
GIVE ME THE ADDRESS OF THE RESTAURANT-- I'LL HANDLE IT. MEANWHILE, YOU GO WITH ROTOR. HE CAN FIX AND BUILD ANYTHING.
REALLY? THANK YOU SO MUCH!
I KNOW SHE'S JUST BUTTERING ME UP.
≥SIGH≤ BUT IT WORKS.


AND SO...
...AND THAT'S THE SITUATION.
THE POOR GIRL...
UNFORTUNATELY, IT'S SIMPLY A MATTER OF SPACE. EVEN THE PATIO IS BOOKED.

PERHAPS I CAN HELP!
HONEY! I'M GLAD TO FINALLY MEET YOU IN PERSON.
CAN YOU LEND A HAND AGAIN?*
HONEY
FASHION DIVA
*STH #268-271 "CHAMPIONS"

I'VE GOT A TABLE BOOKED HERE TONIGHT, BUT I'D HAPPILY TRADE FOR A ROYAL DESIGN JOB...?
GIVE US THE TABLE, AND I'LL LET YOU WARDROBE MY ENTIRE CORONATION.
WHENEVER THAT HAPPENS...
OOH-OOH-HOO! DEAL!

ABOARD THE SKY PATROL...
...YOU LIVE HERE?
NOT FOR VERY LONG. BUT, YEAH-- LIVE, WORK, FIGHT, PLAY...


...AND CONSTRUCT JUST ABOUT ANYTHING!

OHMYGOSH IT'S GORGEOUS!
YOU'RE BRILLIANT!
HEH, WELL, I GUESS FIRST TIME'S THE CHARM FOR ME...

LATER...
PRINCESS SALLY ACORN OF THE KINGDOM OF ACORN. PERMISSION TO COME INTO YOUR GARRISON, CAPTAIN?
CAPTAIN DANIEL MURER OF THE U.F.A.F. SWORD OF MICHAEL.
YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE ARE WELCOMED, YOUR HIGHNESS. WHAT BRINGS YOU TO SPAGONIA?
AN IMPORTANT DINNER PARTY, APPARENTLY.
YOU'RE PROUD OF THAT RING.
YEAH... WELL... STILL...
AHEM IT'S AN EXTENDED MISSION TO DEAL WITH THE SHATTERED WORLD. BEFORE WE GET PREOCCUPIED TONIGHT, I WANTED TO SEE WHAT THE SITUATION WAS HERE WITH THE NIGHTLY MONSTER ATTACKS.
MY SHIP AND CREW HAVE JOINED THE GARRISON HERE, SO IT'S MOSTLY SECURE. BUT OUTSIDE THE CITY IS A DIFFERENT STORY.
WE'VE HAD SO MANY REFUGEES FALL BACK BEHIND THE OLD WALLS, IT'S BEEN DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN PEACE AND ORDER.
AND EVERY NIGHT, MORALE DROPS NOTICABLY. LIKE THE NIGHT IS...CRUSHING US.
BUT WE MAKE IT THROUGH THOSE DARK HOURS, KNOWING SONIC AND THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS ARE OUT THERE. WE WILL KEEP THE PEACE WHILE YOU FIX OUR PLANET.
THANK YOU, CAPTAIN. HOPEFULLY, WE WON'T KEEP YOU WAITING MUCH LONGER.

THAT NIGHT, AT RESTAURANT SWA...
O-OH, MY GOODNESS! I MIEI BEI BAMBINI....!
THANK YOU! THIS IS THE BEST BIRTHDAY A MOTHER COULD ASK FOR!
THIS WASN'T JUST A PERSONAL ISSUE FOR LUCIA. THIS PARTY IS FOR YOU, TOO.
HEH. ≥SNIFF≤ GUILTY AS CHARGED.
I'M SORRY. I KNOW IT'S SELFISH. BUT I NEVER GOT A CHANCE TO KNOW MY MOTHER. ALL I HAVE ARE VAGUE MEMORIES.
I WANTED LUCIA TO HAVE THIS MOMENT WITH HER MOTHER. SOMETHING TO HOLD ONTO FOREVER.
≥SNIFF≤ NO. YOU MADE THE RIGHT CALL. I KEEP FORGETTING THAT WE'RE NOT JUST FIXING A PLANET--WE'RE SAVING EVERYONE ON IT.
THANKS, ROTOR.

HOW DID YOU GET A TABLE, ANYWAY?
EH-HEH-HEH... LET'S JUST SAY I'VE GOT AN INTERESTING PHONE CALL TO MAKE TO DADDY TOMORROW.
I CAN'T THANK YOU TWO ENOUGH! YOU REALLY SAVED THE DAY!
AW, WE'RE HAPPY TO DO IT! WE'RE FREEDOM FIGHTERS, AFTER ALL.
I WAS SO FRAZZLED OVER THE PLANS FOR TONIGHT...
...I NEVER THOUGHT TO ASK--WHAT DID OTTO SEND YOU TO SEE ME ABOUT?
WE'RE GATHERING THE GAIA KEYS IN A PLAN TO SAVE THE WORLD. YOU'RE THE GUARDIAN OF THE SUN KEY, RIGHT?
OHMYGOSH!

THE WORLD IS LITERALLY FALLING APART, AND I'M WORRIED ABOUT A BIRTHDAY PARTY? I'LL GO GET THE KEY RIGHT NOW!
NO-NO-NO! SIT!
WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS ALREADY--TRUST ME. ENJOY THIS MOMENT...
"...SO YOU CAN SAVOR IT AFTER THE WORLD IS SAVED."
THE HUNT FOR THE GAIA KEYS IS NEARLY COMPLETE! COME BACK NEXT MONTH AS THE QUEST CONTINUES AROUND THE GLOBE!

Letter from the EDITOR

Editorial commentary that "buffaloes" away all of its competition!

BELOW: A selection of preliminary designs and color studies for **Axel the Water Buffalo**, egg boss of the Mazuri/Efrika regions.

Hey there, Sonic fans!

The **Light Gaia** has been restored and it seems that there are only a few more **Gaia Keys** left to be found! Looks like the world will be saved in no time! YAY!!! But before that happens, let's give a hand to our artists **Jamal Peppers** and **Jennifer Hernandez** on a well-deserved return to pencilling!

That **Egg Beetle** Jamal drew is spot on. One of my favorite boss battles from *Sonic Unleashed* was the race against the Egg Beetle around the giant tree in Mazuri, so I'm very glad we got to see it depicted here! We also haven't gotten to see much of **Axel the Water Buffalo** in a while. Out of all the **Egg Bosses**, Axel has one of the most intimidating designs. Take a look at the original concept art by penciller **Ryan Jampole**!

BELOW: Character designs and headshots for **Kwami**, **Otto**, **Gwek** and **Lucia** — hub-world characters from the game *Sonic Unleashed*. Artwork by studio, **Gurihiru**.

Jen also did a great job illustrating the people and the world from **Spagonia**. She really nailed those character designs! See the reference images to the left by **Gurihiru**! See? SEE?! Jen nailed it!

Well that's all for now! See y'all next time for more Sonic fun!

– Vincent "Vin" Lovallo
Editor

Vin 2016

SONIC GRAMS FAN ART

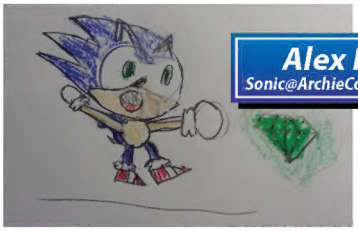
Alyanna R. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Roberto L. from Connecticut

Zuri L. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Ben L. from Illinois

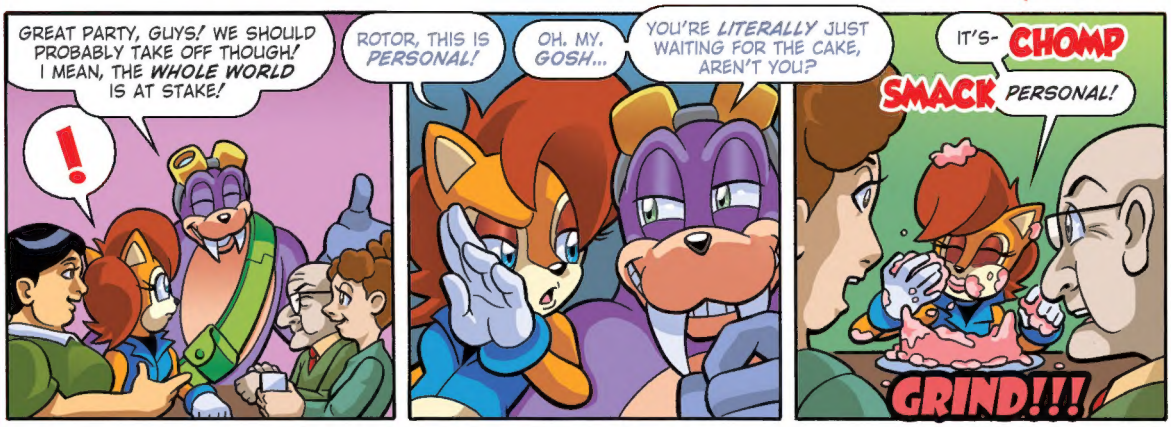
Adam F. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com



Alex P. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

OFF PANEL

THE CAKE IS A FILTHY LIE! OR SWEET SCREAMS



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SONIC GRAMS

SEGA.COM
ARCHIECOMICS.COM

WRITE TO US @: SONIC GRAMS C/O ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC. 629 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 100 PELHAM, NY 10803-1242 E-MAIL: SONIC@ARCHIECOMICS.COM OR TWEET AT US USING #SONICGRAMS!

Dear 'Sonic Grams,'
A lot of interesting, cool stuff is going on and I can't wait to see what will happen! I'm curious to see if any of the new Egg Bosses will be explained, especially Cassia and Clove. They look cool and it looks like they've been through a lot!

We're glad that you enjoyed them so much and hope you liked the conclusion of their story with Sally and Bunnie last issue!

Also, I'm super excited that Lupe and an all new Wolf Pack are back! They look super awesome and Lupe's back story is really cool! Are any more SatAM cartoon Freedom Fighters like Ari the Ram coming back?

We're happy to welcome Lupe back! We don't have any plans for Ari the Ram at the moment, but a lot of people have asked us if he'll have a place in the new Sonic comic universe! Hey, you never know!

Will the origins of Wendy and Walter Naugus be revealed?

You'll find out exactly what the Naugus twins are up to in "Eggman's Dozen" over in Sonic Universe #83-86! Needless to say, we've got big plans for both of our resident troll wizards in the coming story arcs...

Since you're using *Sonic Unleashed* as a backdrop for the current comics, I have to ask if we'll see Lah the Ghost Girl from SEGA's *Night of the Werehog* short make any sort of appearance?

We don't have any plans to adapt Night of the Werehog. However, Lah will appear in a cameo on the variant cover of our very next issue!

Lastly, I loved the cameo El Gran Gordo got in the off-panel of *Sonic* 270. I was a big fan of Eggman's alter-ego from the *Sonic X* comics so that made my day! See you later and keep making great comics!

Patrick L.
from **Oregon**

Thanks for your enthusiastic letter, Patrick! We won't use El Gran Gordo often now that Sonic X is done. He's mostly relegated to off-panel cameos. But that doesn't mean he's been forgotten! Olé!

Dear 'Sonic Grams,'
My name is Stuart and I'm one of Sonic's biggest fans! I've been into the Sonic games, TV shows and comics and I'd like to both say and ask a few things!

1. How did Cassia end up in her current condition? I really want to know more!

Hmm... You'll have to keep reading for that! :)

2. Will Nicole ever get a boyfriend? She needs somebody to be her crush!

Stuart S.
from **Georgia**

Hey, we don't have to pair every character with somebody! I'M JOKING! The only person Nicole loves is her mother... board. :) Thanks for writing in, Stuart!

And with that, we'll see y'all next issue! Byyyeeee~~

CHECK OUT WHAT'S COMING FROM Archie ACTION!

SONIC UNIVERSE™
ISSUE 84
CAN DR. EGGMAN DEFEAT THE EVIL NAUGUS TWINS?
EGGMAN'S DOZEN
PART TWO OF FOUR

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AND "HOMESICK"